

Connecting for Change: a Bioneers by The Bay Conference



The Marion Institute presents the sixth annual “Connecting for Change: a Bioneers by The Bay Conference” on October 22-24, 2010. Keynote speakers to include Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, Annie Leonard producer of *Story of Stuff*, Van Jones, award-winning pioneer in human

rights and the clean-energy economy. The Connecting for Change Conference is a three-day, solutions based gathering filled with: educational workshops; family programming; youth initiative program; an exhibition hall featuring sustainable businesses and organizations; a farmers’ market (showcasing heirloom produce); films; live music; an open mic night; art installations; and seasonal, local and organic food.

Desa VanLaarhaven, Executive Director of the Marion Institute states, “When we get in touch with the fact that we are all connected, and that we all have a critical role to create deep love, justice and sustainability in the world as well as in our own lives, we see the urgent need to connect for change. When we build bridges from local leaders – and that’s all of us – to other leaders from around the world, we inspire each other to do just that.”

The schedule for the conference on Friday, October 22 includes keynote speakers Van Jones, Diane Wilson, Alan Khazei, and Adeola Oredola; on Saturday, October 23 Annie Leonard, Seth Goldman, Antwi Akom, and Michael Ben-Eli will speak; and on Sunday, October 24 the speakers are Anya Kamenetz, David de Rothschild, Nikki Henderson and Greg Mortenson. For a full schedule of workshops and many other events and to register

for the conference, please visit www.connectingforchange.org or call 508-748-0816.

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Greg Mortenson is the co-founder of nonprofit Central Asia Institute, founder of Pennies For Peace, co-author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea*, and author of bestseller *Stones Into Schools*. In 2009, Mortenson received Pakistan's highest civil award, Sitara-e-Pakistan ("Star of Pakistan") for his dedicated and humanitarian effort to promote education and literacy in rural areas for fifteen years. Several bi-partisan U.S. Congressional representatives nominated Mortenson for the Nobel Peace Prize in both 2008 and 2009. The award recipient is chosen by a secret process and announced in October the following year.

Van Jones is a globally recognized, award-winning pioneer in human rights and the clean-energy economy. Van is a co-founder of three successful non-profit organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change and Green For All. He is the best-selling author of the definitive book on green jobs: *The Green-Collar Economy*. He served as the green jobs advisor in the Obama White House in 2009. Van is currently a senior fellow at the Center For American Progress. Additionally, he is a senior policy advisor at Green For All. Van also holds a joint appointment at Princeton University, as a distinguished visiting fellow in both the Center for African American Studies and in the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Annie Leonard is the author and host of *The Story of Stuff* video and author of *The Story of Stuff*, the book. Annie has spent nearly two decades investigating and organizing on environmental health and justice issues. She has traveled to 40 countries, visiting literally hundreds of factories where our stuff is made and dumps where our stuff is dumped. Annie is fiercely dedicated to reclaiming and transforming our

industrial and economic systems so they serve, rather than undermine, ecological sustainability and social equity. Annie is currently on the boards of International Forum for Globalization and GAIA and has previously served on the Boards of the Grassroots Recycling Network, the Environmental Health Fund, Global Greengrants India and Greenpeace India. She did her undergraduate studies at Barnard College, Columbia University and graduate work in City and Regional Planning at Cornell, both in New York.

To read more about these and the other keynote speakers and a full schedule of events at the Connecting for Change conference visit connectingforchange.org. The Connecting for Change conference is presented by The Marion Institute, which is dedicated to identifying, promoting and incubating programs and projects, both on a global and local level, that seek to enhance life for the Earth and its inhabitants. Learn more at marioninstitute.org. The Marion Institute is located at 202 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738. Phone: 508-748-0816.

High resolution photographs, complete speaker bios, video and full conference schedule are available to forward upon request or for download at www.connectingforchange.org

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